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Atty. Dkt. No. 040679-1012

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicant: Hiroaki MIURA et al.

Title: SOUND ABSORBING MATERIAL  
AND INTERIOR MATERIAL  
USING THE SAME

Appl. No.: 09/506,489

Filing Date: 02/18/2000

Examiner: J. Pierce

Art Unit: 1771

**SUPPLEMENTAL REPLY**

Commissioner for Patents  
PO Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Sir:

This communication is supplemental to the RCE and Amendment filed on August 29, 2003. Reconsideration of the application as follows is solicited.

**REMARKS**

Claims 3-6, 13, 14, 17 and 18 are pending in the application. No changes have been made to the claims by way of this Supplemental Reply. Thus, claims 3-6, 13, 14, 17 and 18 remain pending for reconsideration.

**Prior Art Rejections**

Claims 3-5, 7 and 13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,066,388 to Van Kerrebrouck ("Van Kerrebrouck" hereafter). Claims 3-7, 13 and 14 also stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Van Kerrebrouck in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,554,831 to Matsukawa ("Matsukawa" hereafter).

Independent claims 3 and 13 were amended in the July 29, 2003 reply to include the subject matter of dependent claims 7, 15 and 16, which were canceled. The Office Action of August 20, 2003 indicated that this amendment had not been considered, because it incorporated limitations into the independent claims from multiple dependent claims which were not previously considered in combination with one another, and thus raised new issues requiring an updated search. Thus, Applicants filed the request for continuing examination

(RCE) on August 29, 2003 in order to have this amendment entered and fully considered by the Examiner. Applicants submit that this amendment overcomes the prior art rejections for the reasons set forth in the July 29, 2003 reply, and early notification of the same is earnestly solicited.

**Conclusion**

Applicants believe that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

By 

Date September 10, 2003

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Should additional fees be necessary in connection with the filing of this paper, or if a petition for extension of time is required for timely acceptance of same, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge deposit account No. 19-0741 for any such fees; and applicant hereby petitions for any needed extension of time.